

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1 - 9 (Cancelled).

10. (New) An electronic camera comprising:

an image sensor having a light-receiving surface to which a plurality of first pixel blocks are assigned;

a reading means for reading electrical charges generated on said light-receiving surface from said image sensor by scanning said plurality of first pixel blocks in a specific order;

a generation means for generating image data for each second pixel block corresponding to the first pixel block based on the electrical charges read by said reading means;

a compression means for compressing the image data generated by said generation means for each second pixel block in said specific order;

a decompression means for decompressing the compressed image data generated by said compression means for each second pixel block in said specific order; and

an output means for outputting the decompressed image data generated by said decompression means.

11. (New) An electronic camera according to claim 10, further comprising:

a first activation means for activating said compression means in response to a photographing instruction; and

a second activation means for activating said decompression means in response to completion of a compression process by said compression means.

12. (New) An electronic camera according to claim 10, further comprising:

a storage means for temporarily storing in a memory the compressed image data

generated by said compression means; and

a recording means for recording on a recording medium the compressed image data stored in said memory in response to a recording instruction.

13. (New) An electronic camera according to claim 10, further comprising a color filter that has a plurality of color elements covering a plurality of pixels formed on said light-receiving surface, respectively, wherein electrical charges generated in each of said plurality of pixels have color information of one of a plurality of colors, a pixel forming the image data generated by said generation means has all of said plurality of colors, the second pixel block is larger than the first pixel block, and two second pixel blocks adjacent to each other are partly overlapping.

14. (New) An electronic camera according to claim 10, wherein said image sensor is a CMOS type.

15. (New) An electronic camera according to claim 10, wherein said output means includes a resolution reduction means for reducing a resolution of the decompressed image data.

16. (New) An electronic camera according to claim 10, wherein said compression means performs compression in a lossy format.

17. (New) An electronic camera according to claim 10, wherein the image data is still image data.